

Captain Samuel Lane House
33 Main Street
Northfield
Franklin County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-661

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CAPTAIN SAMUEL LANE HOUSE

Location: 33 Main Street, Northfield, Franklin County,
Massachusetts. (East side of Main Street,
near south end, a little north of Maple Street).

Present Owner: Miss Naomi E. Markley, Northfield, Mass.

Present Occupant: Miss Markley

Present Use: Residence and Tourist Home.

Brief Statement of Significance: Representative of the mid 19th century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Samuel Lane (a retired sea captain) was the original owner, for whom it was built. (Leaflet, Open Houses and Museums in Northfield, Mass., 1958)
2. Date of Erection: 1845 - 1847. (Account book of George Stearns).
3. Architect: George Stearns, architect-builder. (Note: George Stearns and his father, Calvin Stearns, were builder-architects who did a great deal of building in and around Northfield during the first half of the 19th century. George Stearns was the brother-in-law of the original owner.)
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: None known to be in existence.

B. Sources of Information

1. Account Book of George Stearns, p. 1-3, 9-12. In the Northfield (Mass.) Historical Society.
2. Leaflet, Open Houses and Museums in Northfield, Mass., 1958. One copy in files of National Park Service, EODC, Historic Structures Section.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: A dignified mansion in the form of a temple, with a two-story portico of Greek Doric columns. Square, two-story structure with rear wing.
2. Condition of Fabric: Very good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Foundations: Granite, large blocks.
2. Wall construction: Wood frame, clapboards. Pilasters at corners.
3. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc: Main portico of six fluted wooden Greek Doric columns. Stone floor, side porch on south of wing, with two elliptical wood arches.
4. Chimneys: Brick. Four, two on each side wall.
5. Openings
 - a. Doorways and Doors: Main entrance with pilasters (antae) and simplified pediment. Side lights. 6-panel door with wide stiles and rails, narrow panels.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double hung sash, 6/6. Simple trim. Louvred shutters.
6. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, gable fronting on street.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Full Doric entablature carries around front and two sides. Gable on front treated as pediment, but roof pitch is greater than that of classical prototypes.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor Plans (by floor): Central Hall, two principal rooms each side.
2. Stairways: In central hall, straight flight. Heavy turned newel post; simple rail, simple turned spindles.

3. Flooring: Wide boards.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered; walls papered.
5. Doorways and doors: Paneled sliding double doors between front and rear rooms on first floor.
6. Trim: Moulded, with corner blocks. Heavy base; no chair rail or wainscot. Picture mould cornice.

Additional Comments: Exterior and interior wood detailing is relatively simple and heavy. While not conforming exactly to pure Greek Revival forms, it is effective and consistent.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Faces west to street.
2. Enclosures (fences, etc.): Not enclosed.
3. Outbuildings: Large wooden barn at rear (east).
4. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: Lawn slightly graded up to house foundation. Informal planting.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service - August 23, 1960

Harley J. McKee